

TL4T Newsletter

TL4T Links & Articles

If you have ever wondered what happens to all the links & articles that we publish? Where did they go? Well, there are two great places to look. One is the **PCSD Technology Department Page** at technology.pcsd.schoolfusion.us. If



you go down to Links, there are all the websites, apps, & software categorized for easy find. You can also find ActivInspire Training Flipcharts & PDFs of all of the past newsletters.

Want to reread an article about a tool? Then go to the TL4T Wiki at tl4t.wikispaces.com. All the tools are organized for easy reviewing. Browse through sites, apps, & software to find the right tool you are looking for use in your lessons. You



can also search the tools by name. Just go to either Web Tools Index or iPad & iPod Apps Index.

If you have suggestions for either page to make it easier for you to find a tool, or perhaps there is a tool you would like to see reviewed & listed, please let me know at akuhr@pcsd.org. Thank you again for all the support & viewership you have given our district's technology newsletter, the TL4T – Technology Lessons 4 Teachers.

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EARLY CHILDHOOD

Let's Explore some Pre-Math Apps



Alien Buddies has different levels of difficulty for our pre-k students. Students can match uppercase letters, numerals, shapes or colors.

There is also a puzzle option with 4-8 piece options to move up in difficulty. A really cute app!



Candy Count is pretty basic. It addresses simple rote counting, one-to-one correspondence, & also sorting by color. Not a bad free app!



Play 123 is a cute free app that works on fine motor skills, shape recognition, & color recognition.

Students move from one activity to the next, addressing different types of skills with each new screen.

SPED LEARNERS

ABA Problem Solving Game & other ABA Apps by Kindergarten.com

These apps work well for our students on the autism spectrum, as well as our students who require resource and vocabulary building in receptive &/or expressive language. The company, Kindergarten.com, offers many different apps, some free, some for a low cost. An easy way to collect and track data for IEP goals, as well! In iTunes store type "ABA" in search bar or go to their website, <http://kindergarten.com>.

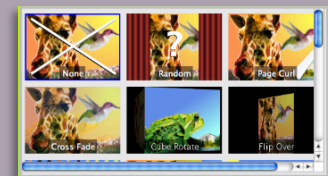


Page Turn Effects ActivInspire

Page Turn Effects

Page Turn Effects adds transitions between your flipchart pages. To turn this on flipchart wide,

1. Select **View > Page Turn Effects**.
2. A window will open filled with 18 different effects.
3. Move the pointer over the thumbnail to preview effects.
4. Choose your effect & click **Done**.



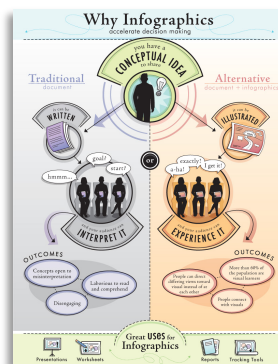
This could be useful as a reward for completing a task, or to signal a change of focus or activity. The effect runs when you navigate away from the page. While Page Turn effects ARE fun & can be useful, use them wisely and sparingly. ActivInspire is a great presentation tool but you want the focus to remain on student interaction & not just as purely presentation of slides.

easel.ly, Infogr.am, & Visual.ly

Information graphics or infographics are graphic visual representations of information; data or knowledge intended to present complex information quickly & clearly.

Infographics can be static, animated or interactive & are used to illustrate information that in standard text format could be boring or difficult to understand.

- Create & share visual ideas
- Take data - sort it, arrange it & visually present it
- Can be simple & short or more in-depth
- Remember what the purpose of the graphic is for. It is easy to get carried away with adding too much or not explaining enough.



How Can You Make An Infographic?



easel.ly, (www.easel.ly) – Provides a canvas on which you can build your own design by dragging & dropping pre-made elements. Start from scratch or build upon an already designed theme.



Infogr.am, (infogr.am) – Create interactive charts & graph posters. There are four basic charts that you can create - bar, pie, line, & matrix.



Visual.ly, (visual.ly) – Create with selecting a template.

Want more information, check out these resources:

- *InfoGraphic Designs: Overview, Examples and Best Practices*, (bit.ly/aFc23Q)
- *Infographics as a Creative Assessment - outstanding resource!*, (bit.ly/rUm3le)

Make Dice an App for iOS Devices

Teacher Guest Post By: Dee Franks, Speech Pathologist



An app we like to use for our speech & language groups is called **Make Dice**. Make Dice allows a user to customize words/messages on all sides of a die, then roll the die by simply shaking the iPad/iPod or pressing a button. The user can create/use one to multiple dice needed for a given activity. Dice & table color can also be altered to differentiate between activities. The speech-language pathologists like to use it to work on: Vocabulary, Prepositions, Antonyms, Synonyms, Plurals/Irregular Plurals, Adjectives, Combining Words into grammatically correct sentences & of course Articulation! There is a no cost version of the app called **Make Dice Lite** as well as the purchasable app for \$2.99.

GarageBand

A teacher guest post by Zachary Konrad, High School Music Teacher.

I know I know... the music teacher's going to talk about GarageBand. I am sure you have all now been floored, so once you pick yourself off the ground, I want to discuss some of the uses I have found with this great application. There are certainly many more-advanced recording applications out there, but I have found GarageBand to be extremely efficient when it comes to recording my student music groups, creating projects for my music appreciation course, or even cutting and editing recordings. The interface is extremely user-friendly and I have found that most any student can figure out functions pretty quickly. Since most Apple computers come with GarageBand, most everyone in our district has access to this program. I'll discuss below two ways I've used this program, one more traditionally for music groups, one more versatile for other classrooms.

Probably the most straightforward use is for simple recording. My students are expected to evaluate themselves as musicians and one of the easiest ways is to actually hear what they sound like. Since I cannot transplant their ears temporarily, I can simply record a rehearsal or run through of a piece and have them listen back, actively listening for areas in need of

improvement or exceptionally positive moments to reinforce. Because of GarageBand's simple exporting, I can easily create an mp3/AAC file so my students can access these files from anywhere. Now, audio recording and self-evaluating your class works well for primarily music groups (although it is certainly not limited to that), there are other more versatile uses. My music appreciation students are asked to create a radio program. In actuality, they're creating a podcast, but (even nowadays) they tend to better relate to what they might hear on morning radio or from evening DJs. I'll have them record intros, news segments, weather updates, sport check-ins, commercials, as well as the morning-zooesque sound effect drop-ins and musical features we all know. My most recent project asked my students to do the above as if they were reporting from the Renaissance era (we were discussing Renaissance music at the time). Students had on period composers and interviewed them (students played the roles) about their works and life. I find that I can reinforce knowledge without making the work seem like drudgery. It's a fun assignment and students can work on multiple parts at once (if in large groups) and then combine the media files into one. It's a versatile assignment too and one I highly recommend for all content areas. Feel free to contact me at zkonrad@pcsd.org if you have any questions.

Animoto for Education



Unlimited Videos For Educators at animoto.com/education. Enhance your digital classroom with Animoto, an ideal tool for creating videos & presentations. It takes just minutes to create a video which can bring your lessons to life. Such a great site that we had to cover it a second time. Check out Issue 10 for even more ideas. Also has an app available for iOS devices.

iPod Apps

ELEMENTARY – BeFunky



A great photo-editing app that is perfect for all ages. A quick & easy way to edit photos. There are NO ADS, no watermarks, no forcing to share, & no registration required. Apply unlimited effects & edits to pictures, while controlling the amount of each. Make minor adjustments or completely transform your picture.

MIDDLE SCHOOL – Language Central for Science Life Science Edition



A wonderful free app that crosses over many different grade levels & will engage students, letting them study key science vocabulary terms

in a fun & unique way. 7th & 8th grade science kids are using it to practice for the vocabulary used in the NESA science tests.

HIGH SCHOOL – Shakespeare

Complete works of Shakespeare; including plays, poems & sonnets. Fact menu: biography, play chronology, play lengths (in pgs. w/ suggested conversion for time), largest roles by line totals, history of Elizabethan theatres, poetry glossary. Links to playshakespeare.com reviews of current productions and podcasts.

This is an excellent reference app & a great way to access full text of Shakespeare's works for free.

Websites 2 Check Out

PRESCHOOL – Building Language for Literacy (<http://bit.ly/bOhmnb>)

Offers three nice little language activities from Scholastic. The activities are designed for PreK & Kindergarten students. *Nina the Naming Newt* needs help identifying the objects that belong in places like the home, the store, & the firehouse. *Leo Love to Spell* asks students to help a lobster named Leo identify the first letter of a series of

spelling words arranged in a dozen categories. *Reggie Love to Rhyme* features a rhinoceros that needs help

identifying the words that rhyme with objects found in places like the home, the garden, & the supermarket.



TEACHER TOOLS – Interactive Whiteboard Activities

(<http://bit.ly/8V5kwo>)

Scholastic offers many great activities for teachers and students to use for all grade ranges & subject areas, & many of them work great on our Promethean boards. Just go to **Scholastic's Interactive Whiteboard Activities** to check out all the great learning resources. They work as individual activities on computers or whole group activities on Promethean boards. These activities are designed for Interactive whiteboards with activities for language arts, social studies, science & math, & learning games & teacher tools.

